

Middle Fork Goodnews River weir, 2004

A resistance-board weir was used to enumerate five species of Pacific salmon and Dolly Varden migrating into the Middle Fork Goodnews River in 2004. A total of 4,388 Chinook, 55,926 sockeye, 31,616 chum, 21,633 pink, 47,917 coho salmon, and 4,077 Dolly Varden were observed passing the weir from 21 June through 20 September. Chinook, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon sustainable escapement goals were achieved or exceeded in 2004 and escapements for these species were above average. A live trap was used to collect samples from Chinook, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon throughout their respective runs to estimate the age, sex, and length composition of each population. The sockeye salmon run was 45.6% male and 71.0% age 1.3 fish. The chum salmon run was 48.3% male and 59.2% age 0.3 fish. The coho salmon run was 44.2 % male and 84.5% age 2.1 fish. Age-sex-length estimates were not made for Chinook salmon because of insufficient samples.

Weir escapement, aerial survey, and harvest data were combined to estimate run abundances for the Goodnews River drainage. When compared with returns over the last 10 years the 2004 return was above average for Chinook salmon and just below average for sockeye salmon. Coho and chum salmon run abundance was not estimated but commercial catch data from District W-5 and a high weir escapement suggest an above average return.

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